

COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING*

Respondents aged 50 and older were asked questions about two colorectal cancer screening tests recommended for this age group: a home blood stool test and a sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy. The respondents were reminded that a blood stool test is a test that may use a special kit at home to determine whether the stool contains blood and they were asked how long ago they used the test.

Had a blood stool test, known as fecal occult blood test (FOBT) in the Past 2 years?

- Twenty-eight percent of Montana adults aged 50 and older reported having a blood stool test within the past 2 years.
- Adults with a college education (33%) tended to be more likely to have had the blood stool test than adults with a high school degree or less ($\leq 24\%$).
- Whites (29%) tended to be more likely to have a home blood stool test than non-Whites or Hispanics (19%).
- Adults in the North Central health planning region (21%) were less likely to have the blood stool test within the past two years than adults in the Southwest health planning region (32%); small sample sizes may have obscured other regional differences.
- The percent of adults aged 50 and older who had a blood stool test within the past two years has remained relatively constant since 2001.

Respondents aged 50 and older were reminded that sigmoidoscopy and colonoscopy are exams in which a tube is inserted in the rectum to view the colon for signs of cancer or other health problems.

Ever had a Sigmoidoscopy or Colonoscopy?

- Fifty-three percent of Montana adults aged 50 and older reported ever having had a sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy.
- Increasing age and increasing household income levels showed increasing prevalence of having ever had such tests.
- The prevalence of ever having had the tests among White, non-Hispanic adults (53%) tended to be higher than among non-White or Hispanic Montana adults (42%).
- Adults in the Eastern health planning region of Montana (39%) were significantly less likely to report having had these exams than those in other health planning regions ($\geq 52\%$), except for the North Central region (49%).
- Since 2001, the prevalence of ever having had a sigmoidoscopy/colonoscopy increased from 43 percent to 53 percent, ten percent within a 4 year span of time.

**Denominator is respondents aged 50 and older.*

Healthy People 2010 Objectives:

3-12a. Increase the number of adults aged 50 years and older who have received a fecal occult blood test (FOBT) within the preceding two years to at least 50%.

3-12b. Increase the number of adults aged 50 years and older who have ever received a sigmoidoscopy to at least 50%.

[Table 19. Colorectal Cancer Screening, Montana Adults Age 50 and Older, 2004]

[Figure 19. Colorectal Cancer Screening, Montana Adults Age 50 and Older, 2001-2004]

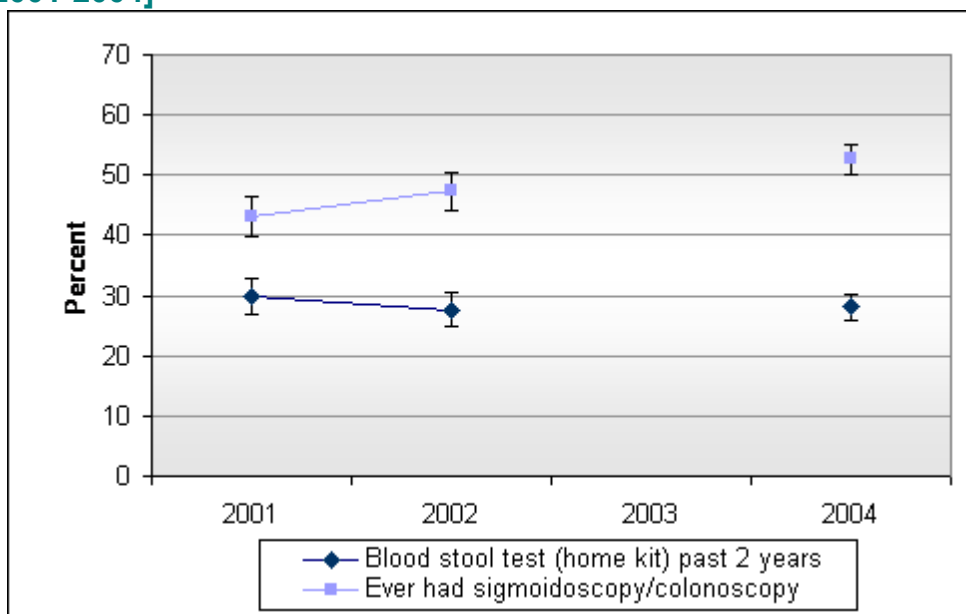


Figure 19. Colorectal Cancer Screening, Montana Adults Age 50 and Older, 2001-2004.